



NEWSLETTER

JULY
2022

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www.alaska-trails.org

ALASKA TRAILS NEWS AND NOTICES

ALMOST HALF OF ALASKA LONG TRAIL PROJECTS MAKE BUDGET

We are super excited that seven out of 15 Alaska Long Trail projects have made it into the state FY23 budget!

We had hoped all of those projects would be funded and very much appreciate that both the House and Senate included the 15 projects into their draft budget. But we also knew that the governor might veto some of them. (See story in Statewide section for more details.)

Even though we are disappointed that all the projects didn't make the budget, the surviving projects are still a great boost to the Alaska Long Trail. They will provide real connections and will add momentum to the overall goal of connecting Seward and Fairbanks.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES RETURN WITH ALASKA TRAIL STEWARDS

VOLUNTEER, GET VACCINATED Alaska Trail Stewards volunteer events are back! We'd love for you to join us!

The mission of the Alaska Trail Stewards Program is to provide volunteer-based trail maintenance services to public land managers and others who have responsibility for safely and sustainably maintaining trails throughout Alaska.

New to trail work? Not a problem. No experience is necessary, just sturdy boots, a good attitude, and a willingness to learn what it takes to keep our trails great. We can't wait to get out there with you!

Learn more and sign up on our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/volunteer-opportunities>

We encourage everyone to get vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control recently announced that if you're vaccinated, you don't need to mask outdoors (<https://tinyurl.com/ydzdkxmf>). Therefore, we are optimistic about having safe and fun events to build and maintain trails. **The best way for you to join in on that is to get vaccinated and do your part to keep the community safe.**



ALASKA TRAILS HAS TOOL TRAILERS READY FOR TRAIL PROJECTS

BORROW As you start planning trail building and maintenance projects, remember that Alaska Trails has mobile tool caches available to loan to organized trail groups in Southcentral and Interior Alaska. One cache is in the Fairbanks area and the other is in Anchorage/Mat-Su Valley area.

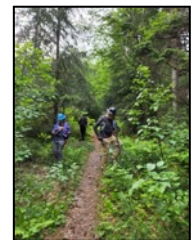


The trailers have a bunch of trail tools including McLeods, Pulaskis, rakes, gloves, and much, much more. If you would like to borrow one of the caches, please contact us (info on masthead).

We on the lookout for a tool trailer for one of our crews - a smaller version of the one that you see below. Please e-mail us at office@alaska-trails.org if you know of one for sale, rent, borrow or barter.

SEEN RECENTLY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

June 19: We had such a great crew of volunteers helping to clear brush from the beginning of the Penguin Ridge and Penguin Creek trails yesterday! Over a mile of trail was brushed, thanks to this hardworking crew. We are grateful to the Chugach Park Fund for sponsoring this event and for their continued support that makes trail maintenance like this possible.



We have some fun volunteer events coming up, including Blueberry Hollow to White Spruce Trail brushing this Saturday. To see all our upcoming volunteer events and to sign up, visit: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

June 9: A BIG #ThankfulThursday to the Chugach Park Fund! The majority of our work the past three years in Chugach State Park, as well as many volunteer events, have been the result of the hard work and fundraising that the Chugach Park Fund has done. We are grateful for their support and partnership.



And just this morning, I got to see their support in action just down the trail from the Prospect Heights trailhead. The Alaska Trails crew is fixing a couple chronic wet areas on the trail. Please let us know what you think the next time you are out there!

Check out their website at: <https://alaskacf.org/funds/chugach-park-fund/>

June 8: We just added a bike to brush event on the Powerline Trail on July 23rd! Volunteers will bike in approx two miles, lock their bikes and clear some brush. If that sounds like fun, check out all the details at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

June 7: And here's some great photos from our third National Trails Day event on Saturday! Big thanks to U.S. Forest Service - Chugach National Forest and Alaska Geographic for teaming up on this event to construct a new section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. We've got other events coming up - check them out at:



<https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

June 6: Alaska Trails is grateful to Matson in Alaska and the Chugach Park Fund for their support of our National Trails Day event this past Saturday! It was a great success as you will see on your next trip up their. Still a bit more to do and we hope to tackle that this summer.



More volunteer opportunities at our website: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

June 6: Here's one of our three National Trails Day events from Saturday! Thanks to all the volunteers - what a beautiful day in Whittier! More photos of the other events to come - and more events at: <https://www.alaska-trails.org/current-volunteer-opportunities>

Shared from
Whittier Parks & Recreation is in Whittier, Alaska.
June 5
Wow! What a great (and hot ☀️) day of productive work! An awesome group of about 20 volunteers worked on the lower portion of the connector trail, and enjoyed a cookout & raffle afterwards on the Sportsman's deck. Stay tuned for July's trail day info!



June 3: The Alaska Trails crew is safe and sound in Cordova and already at work on the McKinley Lake Trail!

June 1: Our volunteer agreement is back on-line! You can save yourself some time at your next Alaska Trail Stewards event by signing the agreement now. Find it on our website along with our volunteer opportunities - including 3 this weekend!

It is at the bottom of this page = <https://www.alaska-trails.org/alaska-trail-stewards>

STATEWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

SEVEN ALASKA LONG TRAIL PROJECTS SURVIVE GOVERNOR VETOES

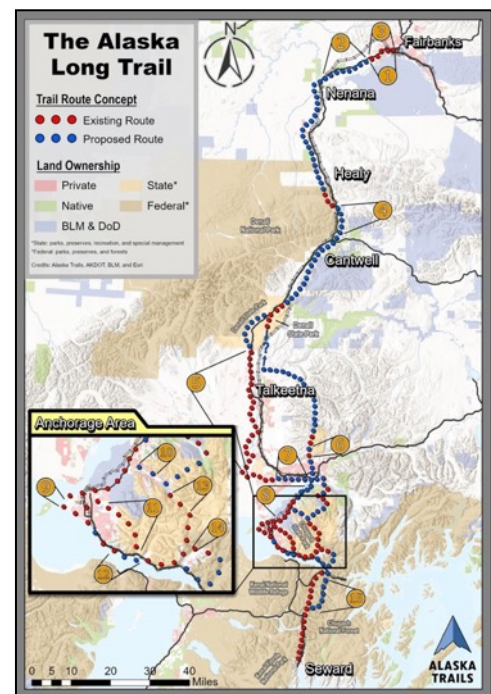
The Alaska Long Trail had mixed results with Gov. Mike Dunleavy's veto pen.

Seven of the 15 projects passed by the Alaska State Legislature survived being cut. All are in the Anchorage area. All the eight project outside the Anchorage area were vetoed. It is unclear why those projects were cut, though there have been reports that some projects have been opposed by certain influential groups and that others were in districts whose legislators didn't vote for measures the governor wanted.

In an article on the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, Jeff Turner, from the governor's office, said the proposed route for the Long Trail will enter or pass near the boundaries of several local governments and communities.

"Many Alaskans in those areas were not aware of the Long Trail or had very little information about the project," Turner said Wednesday.

"The governor decided to veto some of the funding so discussions can take place this year about the trail's potential impacts and benefits for Alaska's tourism industry," Turner said.



The projects that survived the veto pen are:

- Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska Long Trail Anchorage to Mat-Su Reconnaissance Study \$300,000
- Anchorage Park Foundation - Alaska Long Trail Urban Braid -- Anchorage Moose Loop \$800,000
- Anchorage - Glacier Creek Bridge - Replacement for Hand Tram - Alaska Long Trail \$1,200,000
- Arctic to Indian Phase 1 Trail improvements - Alaska Long Trail \$20,000
- Crow Pass - Eagle River - Alaska Long Trail \$1,500,000
- Peters Creek Upper Trail & Bridge - Alaska Long Trail \$30,000
- Turnagain Arm Trail Maintenance and Extension - Alaska Long Trail \$370,000

Projects in Fairbanks, Denali and Mat-Su regions didn't survive the vetoes. However, that does not mean they are dead. Two projects that were vetoed – one in the Denali area and one in the Chugach National Forest – have been included by Sen. Lisa Murkowski in the congressional earmarks request list. Work on the Fairbanks to Nenana section has been underway since before these projects were included in the budget by the legislature. Work on that section will likely continue, albeit at a slower pace than if the projects had not been vetoed.

In a Fairbanks Daily New-Miner story, Sen. Tom Begich (D-Anchorage) mentioned the vetoes.

“It is unfortunate that not all priorities were funded. Projects like fully funding the Alaska Long Trail and services like public broadcasting did not survive the governor’s red pen,” Begich said. “These are widely popular projects and services that Alaskans have come to rely on.”

To see the News-Miner story go here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p878bhm>

For a story on the overall vetoes and budget go here: <https://tinyurl.com/2espez8t>

GROUP ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO HELP CLEAN UP TRAILS

Clean Trails is an international group with a local focus. The group seeks to inspire individuals and groups to clean up their local trails. Read more about the group below. If you’re inspired, sign up to clean up!

<https://www.cleantrails.org/>

We’re an international 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization with a world-wide community of people dedicated to keeping our wild places and the trails that access those spaces free of litter. Study after study shows the highest indicator that someone will pick up litter is if they witness someone else picking up litter. That’s because peer group norms are more powerful than incentives, and when worked in concert with each other, they can provide impressive behavioral change impacts.



Core to our beliefs is the notion that people want to do the right things; all they need is a little encouragement or incentive. We believe that people are naturally responsible; if we encourage them to care for their favorite places, to pick up after themselves and others, then our trails will become self-sufficient, clean, and more enjoyable.

Photo from Clean Trails website

One way you can participate in cleaning up trails is to go plogging. What’s plogging? Here’s the entry from Wikipedia:

Plogging is a combination of jogging with picking up litter (merging the Swedish verbs plocka upp (pick up) and jogga (jog) gives the new Swedish verb plogga, from which the word plogging derives). It started as an organized activity in Sweden around 2016 and spread to other countries in 2018, following increased concern about plastic pollution. As a workout, it provides variation in body movements by adding bending, squatting and stretching to the main action of running, hiking, or walking. An estimated 2,000,000 people plog daily in 100 countries and some plogging events have attracted over 3,000,000 participants.

SEEN RECENTLY ON STATEWIDE FACEBOOK PAGES


BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA

June 15: ⚠️ Caution! This might change the way you look at – and use - your favorite trail.

Some trails are inherited, and some are created by recreation users.

 All trails can last for generations, if they're built right.

Learn how BLM Alaska's outdoor recreation planners improve access to and the quality of trails on #YourPublicLands so you can make memories for decades to come 🗺️🔗 <http://ow.ly/UTz050JxENw>

 A volunteer hauls a wheelbarrow full of shovels and tools for trail maintenance during a volunteer event at the BLM-administered Campbell Tract in Anchorage. Photo by BLM Alaska.



SOUTHCENTRAL NEWS AND NOTICES

ROAD WORK WILL AFFECT ACCESS TO ANCHORAGE TRAILHEADS

Access to some south Anchorage trailheads will remain open, but will be affected by road projects. Below is a message from the road service area:

The Glen Alps Road Service Area maintains roads to Glen Alps and Rabbit Lake/Sunnyside with local resident taxes. They wanted the public to know:

- A contractor will start a temporary fix to Upper DeArmoun, which will entail ripping up the worst 500 feet of Upper DeArmoun (just west of Patrick) and replacing that with a new batch of rolled (but not paved!) material which we can maintain and re-build as needed until a more permanent fix and funding (from infrastructure funds or the Legislature) can be accomplished. Neither project should close the road.
- The work started the week of June 27 and could take 1-2 weeks.

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHCENTRAL FACEBOOK PAGES

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION IS IN SPENARD, ANCHORAGE.

June 15: Coming soon to the Fish Creek Trail... Art from award-winning artist Sheila Wyne! One of our 2022 Community Challenge Grants supports Sheila's vision to create a mosaic frieze art installation, centered in the bike trail tunnel that runs under Spenard Road. The concept envisions a repeating pattern of salmon



skin/scales with fluid, riffle lines hinting at the movement of water as it flows over the surface of the scales. The material used for the mosaic is decommissioned road signs.

We love to raise funds to invest them in our neighborhood parks and trails. Many thanks to Rasmuson Foundation and Anchorage Parks and Recreation for this partnership.



June 17: The Youth Employment in Parks crews are out in the field! They spent a week at University Lake Park doing bank restoration and trail improvements. The 24 teens and their field crew leaders work for two months improving parks and trails. We love this partnership with Anchorage Parks and Recreation.

Thanks to Matson in Alaska and their Caring for Alaska program that sponsored the youth program this year.

June 7: Many thanks and congratulations to @alaskatrails for their successful application to our Community Challenge Grant program, in partnership with @rasmusonfoundation and @anchorageparksandrec. They were awarded \$35,000 to build trails in Russian Jack Springs Park. We can't wait to see them built next year!



CHUGACH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS

June 20: Happy Trails is at it AGAIN! We've got a couple feature-rich gravity trails coming to Mirror Lake! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to clear hazards and pack tread!

DO NOT APPROACH TRAIL WORKERS! Work parties will start next week on Weds evenings. **STAY AWAY FROM THE MACHINES, PLEASE!**

If you have extra time to head out for independent trail work, please contact us first. We need waivers signed, and hours turned in for grant reporting. Thanks!

Also, if you have an extra \$25k, we could really use some donations to pay for this all.

June 16: Woohoo! We were just awarded \$30k from the State of Alaska's Recreational Trails Program (RTP). MORE TRAILS ARE COMING TO MIRROR LAKE!

Want to help? We need to match these funds! Please join CMBR or renew your membership today!
<https://cmbralaska.org/join-cmbr/>

MAT-SU BOROUGH RECREATION AND LIBRARY SERVICES

June 1: Our Trail Crewmembers are all on board and starting to get out there to take care of our trails. A lot of safety training has already taken place and now the Crew is starting to check all of the trails to see how they fared over the winter, and remove the rest of the trees that were damaged during the January wind storm. It's going to be a busy summer with maintaining our existing trails and building some new trails at Settlers Bay Coastal Park and in the Talkeetna area.

Please email recreational.services@matsugov.us if you see any issues on the trails that need our attention. Thank you and be safe out there!



ISLAND TRAILS NETWORK

June 19: Thanks again to Melissa Dover Gandel and her students for helping make Gibson Cove Beach more accessible for everyone. We got some feedback from some trails users and will keep working on the trail/beach intersection to continue to reduce that slope.

SOUTHCENTRAL LINKS

- Little O'Malley may now be most accessible hike in Chugach State Park: <https://tinyurl.com/4jpn3mas>
- Hike Harp Mountain in Eagle River: <https://andreakuipoabroad.com/hike-harp-mountain-eagle-river/>
- Kincaid Trail Crew! July 5 (Singletrack Advocates): <https://tinyurl.com/mr432fwc>
- Decision re public easement request for Watermelon Trail, Homer: <http://notice.alaska.gov/207213>
- Rapid erosion triggers emergency closure of Anchorage's Ship Creek Trail: <https://tinyurl.com/ys852jrw>
 - Ship Creek Trail Updates: www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/ShipCreekTrail.aspx

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Behind the reimagined '55 Ways' guidebook, a family legacy and shared passion for the Alaska outdoors (ADN): <https://tinyurl.com/2p8wwvr5>
- Public invited to help plan Susitna Basin "Recreation Rivers" use (virtual meeting Aug 2): <https://tinyurl.com/57kbhfbh>
- Alaska road project pits conservative lodge owners against conservative state administration: <https://tinyurl.com/m7f855fu>
- Commissioner Adopts the Kachemak Bay State Park Plan and State Wilderness Park Management Plan: <http://notice.alaska.gov/207200>

INTERIORWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

TANANA STATE FOREST CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USE FOR NOW

The Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources has temporarily closed the Tanana Valley State Forest to motorized use, to minimize the likelihood of new wildland fire starts.

The Tanana Valley State Forest is extremely dry, wildfires are creating smoky conditions, and fire danger is very high. Motorized use of the Tanana Valley State Forest at this time would greatly increase the probability of additional ignitions. Active fires are currently burning in the Tanana Valley, and additional fire starts would greatly strain the Division of Forestry's firefighting resources.



Beginning on June 29, 2022 at 8:00 A.M. Alaska Daylight Time (AKDT) and continuing until further notice, the Tanana Valley State Forest (see attached map) is temporarily closed to motorized use, except for access to private inholdings, until this order is rescinded.

From Department of Natural Resources press release: <https://tinyurl.com/5f6rka47>

Photo from Alaska Wildland Fire Information website

CHALLENGE OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND TRAILS IN INTERIOR

The Fairbanks Summer Trails Challenge is live with most of the 16 signs up and ready to find all over the borough.

According to the plans, signs 1-11 were to be up by solstice weekend and signs 12-16 were to go out by June 30.

Borough staff will update once all signs are up and a trails guide will be published, as it past years.

Introduced last year, there will again be a "Sourdough Trailblazer" category. To join that category you need to be 60 and older and find at least five signs. And there is still the Junior Trailblazer Award, in

which participants under the age of ten need to find at least five signs.

This event, put on by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, is an all-ages, all-abilities, outdoor scavenger hunt. The challenge is designed to get you out with your friends and family to explore our wonderful local trails, both new and familiar.

Anyone is allowed to participate in the search. When you find a sign, prove you made it by taking a “selfie” photo with the sign and posting it on social media with the hashtag “#FNSBTrails” or email your photo to trails@fnsb.us. And of course, leave the sign to be found by the next trail challenge participant.

Participants who find at least ten signs during the event can win prizes from local sponsors and the coveted Trailblazer Award. Participants under the age of ten can find at least five signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award! Whether you find one or find them all, challenge yourself to get outside and enjoy nature!

To find out more and see a list of signs see the Fairbanks Borough Trails Office webpage: <https://tinyurl.com/2p94nb22>



SMALL CREAMER’S REFUGE TRAILHEAD MIGHT BE IMPROVED



The Interior Alaska Land Trust is seeking to improve a small trailhead for the Creamer's Field Migratory Wildfowl Refuge.

The trailhead, on Midnight Sun Street off Farmer's Loop Road across from Shuros Drive, is small and the trust plans to keep it small. Currently, the trailhead is not well marked and the parking, next to a driveway, is not well planned. The trust purchased a 3.8-acre lot as part of the project.

However, the project might not happen if the property is not rezoned. The land is involved in a rezone of that property and another 416 acres now owned by the state and being included in the

Creamer's Field Migratory Wildfowl Refuge. The properties would change from being zoned rural residential to outdoor recreational.

Several government agencies are on board, but some neighbors have concerns. Loose dogs are one of the issues.

All trail users should be as polite and conscientious as possible when using trailheads, especially those near residential areas. No loose dogs, leftover dog poop, loud noises, trash, etc.

For more information on the issue see this Fairbanks Daily News-Miner story: <https://tinyurl.com/nahmrzar>

Photo of Midnight Sun Street trailhead by Eric Troyer

SEEN RECENTLY ON INTERIOR FACEBOOK PAGES

INTERIOR ALASKA TRAILS AND PARKS FOUNDATION



June 5: Randy Goodwin (Vice President), and Me (Brian Accola...Treasurer) brushed and logged the left loop on Table Top Trail today!

Thanks to all that came out!

Remember our ability to aid these projects relies entirely on volunteers and donations!

(Trails projects on BLM lands REQUIRE coordination and a signed release with BLM. Please do not undertake trail maintenance on your own!)

Report:

Randy Goodwin and I camped at Nome Creek Saturday, then cleared logs and brushed the trail edges up the LEFT trail. A huge drift locks the mid trail and we didn't have time to hit the RIGHT side of the loop.

High winds made the burn dangerous. 6 trees fell behind us in the time it took to go up and back.

Trail was pretty dry. Water source (spring) was low...weird for the winter we had.

Little 18V Makita chainsaw did really good with my aged 3Ah batteries. Need the 5Ah ones for sure.

Brushing with the hedge trimmer was MOST EXCELLENT! We now need to plan work on the right trail that is full of dwarf birch.

FAIRBANKS TRAIL AND WATERWAY USERS

June 19: Want to get out for more trips but life gets in your way? Why not try an S240? That's bikepacking-speak for Sub-24-hour Overnighter. But the idea for an S240 isn't limited to bikepacking. it can apply any outdoor recreational activity from backpacking to road bike touring to ATVing.

Trips often take a lot of planning and then procrastination sets in. But small trips are easier to pull off in a hurry without a lot of planning.

Here are some ideas for Fairbanks-area S240s:

<https://tinyurl.com/yay6jib2>

And here's a report of a recent bikepacking S240 on the Mastodon Trail out to Nugget Creek cabin: <https://tinyurl.com/23kv656y>



June 13: For those who haven't been up to Wickersham Dome yet this summer, BLM is installing new boardwalk around the worst muddy section! They still had a ways to go as of Saturday, but quite a bit is already done.

June 8: Good turnout for the Antler Ridge trail work party down in Healy for National Trails Day! "About 20 Denali Borough volunteers teamed up with the experts — the Denali National Park Trail Crew — to start work on the trail head for the borough's first maintained trail last weekend. It will be a one-mile loop that takes off from the new parking lot at Mile 245 Parks Highway."

<https://tinyurl.com/3hmz4vdp>

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH PARKS & REC

June 10: It's the most silt that's been removed in years! 😞

Your parks maintenance crew are hard at work removing silt on the bike path under the Cushman St. & Barnette St. bridges.

🔧 Staff measured about 18" of silt under the Cushman Bridge compared to about 2" under the Barnette Bridge. Last summer, the silt was removed two to three times to keep the path open after river levels dropped below the asphalt!



NORDIC SKI CLUB OF FAIRBANKS

If you spend time up at Birch Hill, consider spending a little of that time pulling bird vetch. This invasive plant is spreading rapidly across Fairbanks. It has started to take over parts of Birch Hill.

You can pull it or mow/weedwhack it. However, be careful if it has gone to seed, as you can easily spread the seeds by accident. It's best to put plants that have gone to seed in plastic bags, tie them up, then throw them in the trash. But if it hasn't gone to seed, attack it vigorously!

To learn how to identify and otherwise deal with it, check out these resources:

<http://birdvetch.open.uaf.edu/module-3/>

<https://www.fairbanksweeds.org/user-files/All%20Posters.pdf>

DELTA JUNCTION TRAILS ASSOCIATION

June 11: Although not a DJTA event, the following may be of interest to those looking for an outdoor activity:

Once again Delta's loosely organized walking/hiking group will be gathering for weekly adventures in the great outdoors. This year will be run much like last year's group.

Anyone and everyone is invited to join in on the walks. We will meet at Pioneer Park each Thursday at 10 AM. The only exception will be the first walk scheduled for the Liewer Community Trail where we will meet at the parking lot of the Jr. Sr high school. We will gather and carpool to the beginning of the hike or walk location.

This is a no host, no sign-up event and there is no need to reserve your spot or anything else. These walks are mostly 1 1/2 miles to 3 miles and range from easy to difficult.

The goal of the group is to make new friends, or after the last covid year see old friends. Also, it is a good chance to get some exercise and see and enjoy our beautiful area. Come join us for any one or all of the walks.

Always dress appropriately for Alaska's changing weather. Always bring a snack and plenty of water for the length of the hike you want to participate in. Any other hikes beyond this date can be decided on later.

Questions? Just call Carol Austin (907) 460-7098 or Steve McCombs at (907) 803-7658.

Liewer Trail Notes: 1.2 per lap 6/9/2022

Gladtfelder-Moose Pond 3 mi. moderate 6/16/2022

River Walk Park 2 mi. 6/23/2022

Clearwater Hill 3 mi. 6/30/2022

Lisa Lake 2.5 mi. 7/7/2022

Gulkanna Glacier/ bridge Rocky river bed 7/14/2022

Tanana Bluff up moderate+ 1+mi. 7/21/2022

Coal mine 1st cabin 5 mi. easy 7/28/2022

J. Fowler/Tenderfoot 5 mi. easy 8/4/2022

Bluff Cabin moderate+ 8/11/2022

INTERIORWIDE LINKS

- White Mountains National Recreation Area Rescinds Trail Closure: <https://tinyurl.com/ye2xbhym>
- Easement Application for access trail in the Mt. Ryan Remote Recreation Staking Area (comment deadline July 13): <http://notice.alaska.gov/207105>
- S240 on the Mastodon Trail to Nugget Creek Cabin: <https://tinyurl.com/23kv656y>

SLIGHTLY OFF-TRAIL

- Get Out More! Get Out the Door! How to Do An S240: <https://tinyurl.com/yay6jib2>

SOUTHEAST NEWS AND NOTICES

SEEN RECENTLY ON SOUTHEAST FACEBOOK PAGES

SITKA TRAIL WORKS, INC.

June 24: ⚠️ CAUTION ⚠️ Indian River Trail (Kaasda Héen) — A section of the handrail is broken off from the first log bridge about 1.5 miles down the trail, and the rest of the railing may not be structurally sound. Please use caution if you are hiking the trail.

June 17: The results are in: Sitkans love trails!

Almost 800 people took the Sitka Trail Plan survey, which shows how enthusiastic Sitkans are about shaping the future of our shared outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Check out the results of the survey online at: <https://sitkatrailworks.org/2023-trail-plan/survey/>

June 10: The Cross Trail is repaired!

The erosion that slumped off a big chunk of the trail near Cascade Creek required a significant reconstruction, which is now complete. The City of Sitka contracted Troy's Excavation, who also fixed up the muddy parking lot and a few other wet spots on the trail.



June 6: This weekend, Sitka Trail Works board members and volunteers tackled a muddy patch on the Mosquito Cove Trail. Thanks for everyone who lends a hand to keep our trails in good shape!

TRAIL MIX, INC.



June 28: Brum-brum-brum-brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr.

The sweet sound of chainsaws means another trail is clear of downed trees. Windfall Lake was littered from end to end with over 20 blowdowns, but they were no match for our skilled crew.

As this cabin is one of the most popular Forest Service cabins in Juneau, we're glad that everyone can enjoy the trip out there once again. Thanks Dane and Duncan for your work!

June 27: What's old is new again at Treadwell Mine Historic Trail! 🏌️🚩

This historic trail has a fun new twist: a pop-up disc golf course thanks to a collaboration between JDGC - Juneau Disc Golf Club and Pioneers of Alaska. The 9-hole putters course is designed to be more easily accessible for families and people with mobility issues. So if you've been thinking about trying out disc golf, now is the time!

Read more in the Juneau Empire bit.ly/39XZYXu

📷 Clarise Larson / Juneau Empire



June 23: We're looking to add to our crew! 👁️👁️

Trail Mix is hiring crew members from now until July 10th. ⚡ If you or someone you know has been looking for a job where you spend time outside, enjoy three day weekends, and help give back to the community, then look no further! 🌲🔍

We'll teach you everything you need to know about trail work, so no experience is necessary.



We're looking for candidates who:

- 🔪 enjoy working outside all day in all weather conditions
- 🏔️ work effectively as a team member to overcome challenges
- 🔪 contribute to a welcoming and inclusive environment for all crew members

For full job description and how to apply, go to bit.ly/trailmixsummer22crew. ✨ Help us spread the word and tag a friend who you think might be interested!

June 16: Thank you Juneau-Gastineau Rotary Club!

Last Saturday, members from the four Rotary clubs of Juneau met up at the Lena Point trail to begin their work as Trail Stewards. While out there, volunteers began work on some reroutes and moved hundreds of pounds of gravel! 🙌

We can't wait for our next work day! 🎉



June 14: Our volunteer trail crew is at it again! 🎉



These gravel-slinging superstars spent some time improving a section of the Treadwell Ditch that was filled with ankle-breaker rocks and stubborn roots. 🌲

The crew used large rocks, as seen in the base of the first photo, to create a dip for water to drain through. Then, they removed large rocks and flattened out the trail. Once the groundwork was complete, they topped it all off with a fresh layer of gravel. 🪨

June 9: We could not do what we do without our amazing community. 🎉 Today, we're feeling a little extra thankful after celebrating a wonderful National Trails Day last Saturday. 🍷❤️

On Saturday, we had 25 volunteers join us to improve the first half-mile of Lemon Creek Trail and over 50 community members stop in to our new shop to say hi. 🙌📦 We were able to repair washed-out sections of the trail, improve drainage, and widen the tread. A special shout-out to the Juneau Icefield Research Program (JIRP)'s summer staff! We had a great time working with you to improve this access to the icefield. 🙌

After two long years of online events and very limited volunteer opportunities, it was amazing to connect with our community again.



June 2: It's #thankfulthursday and we wanted to give a shoutout to Judy and Jim Hauck for organizing a volunteer effort to harden the beach access to the Mendenhall Wildlife Refuge. ✨



On May 18th, a group of neighbors and fishers worked together to lay down landscape fabric, geo-cell material, and gravel. 🛠️👟 These volunteers used about 7 tons of gravel to improve the trail! Great work volunteers! 🎉

If you'd like to check out the improved access trail, head to the Starlite Beach Access in the Bayview neighborhood. 👟

SOUTHEAST LINKS

- Juneau community members came together to fix trails on National Trails Day: <https://tinyurl.com/5kc9d98e>
- Five months after sustaining slide damage, section of Sitka Cross trail repaired: <https://tinyurl.com/2t5z2uwn>
- Sitkans shape future of trails through public survey: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8tea8w>
- Chix'i Héen Bridged (Sitka): <https://sitkatrailworks.org/chixi-heen-bridged/>
- Ben Hughey of Sitka Trail Works discusses the future of Sitka's local trails: <https://tinyurl.com/4r3nnfp9>

SLIGHTLY OFF TRAIL

- Climbing Clarence Kramer – Sitka: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWh-T_qqRpo

NATIONWIDE NEWS AND NOTICES

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY REPORT FROM AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY

The trail community came together and made a great impact in celebration of the 30th annual National Trails Day® on June 4. More than 347 miles of trails were built or improved by more than 12,000 volunteers at 164 project sites. Hikers, cyclists, equestrians, trail runners, paddlers, and many other trail users joined the nationwide movement at more than 698 events across the country and more than 4,000 people pledged to leave the trail and the outdoor community better than they found them.

From Paperless Trail, American Hiking Society e-newsletter

PRESENTATION PROPOSALS FOR TRAILS SUMMIT DUE IN JULY

American Trails (AT) and the Professional TrailBuilders Association (PTBA) will join forces to co-host the International Trails Summit (a collaborative effort of the 25th International Trails Symposium and Training Institute and the Sustainable Trails Conference) in Reno, Nevada during the week of April 17, 2023. The combined, high-impact event will convene a diverse trail and outdoor community to learn, build relationships, and find solutions to the challenges of developing and elevating outdoor recreation opportunities for all. The joint conference will also feature the World Trails Network – Hub for the Americas (WTN-Americas).

AT, PTBA, and WTN-Americas invite you to submit proposals for presentations that help develop an exciting and motivating program for the summit. Proposals can be national or international in scope, and a high priority will be placed on presentation proposals that offer thought leadership in one or more of the focus areas described on the summit website. It is the Program Committee's intention to choose a slate of 2023 presenters that advances diversity and inclusion at all levels.

Proposals are due July 15: https://form.jotform.com/221395950319056?blm_aid=41528

For more on the trails summit: <https://tinyurl.com/ye2xmc2p>

From American Trails email

TRANSIT TO TRAILS ACT GAINING MOMENTUM

The American Hiking Society is encouraging people to advocate for the Transit to Trails Act. The following story is from the AHS Paperless Trail e-newsletter:

Engagement around the Transit to Trails Act is heating up! Here are a few recent actions and how you can get involved! National Trails Day® Pledge takers were encouraged to contact their Members of Congress as one way to fulfill their pledge to leave the trails community better than they found it. AHS joined the REI Cooperative Action Network to share about the Transit to Trails legislation. AHS participated in the Outdoors Alliance for Kids OAK Advocacy Week and led a team of youth and outdoor advocates! We had the opportunity to meet with the bills lead sponsor, Rep. Jimmy Gomez (CA-34). With all this activity it's important to make sure every Member of Congress is hearing about the Transit to Trails Act. Will you join us and ask your member to support this legislation?

To take action go here: <https://americanhiking.org/advocacy/transit-to-trails-act/>

NATIONWIDE / INTERNATIONAL LINKS

WEBINARS, MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, TRAINING, ETC.

- For a listing of upcoming trail webinars workshops, conferences, and other meetings, see the American Trails calendar at: www.americantrails.org/training/calendar

TRAILS-RELATED NEWSLETTERS

- American Trails "Trail Tracks": www.americantrails.org/newsletter

VOLUNTEER

- Conservation Volunteers International Program newsletter (June): <https://tinyurl.com/3kan7y73>

FUNDING

- FOX Factory Trail Trust (applications reviewed quarterly): <https://tinyurl.com/bdfjevrd>

- Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative (OHVs, **quarterly deadlines**): <https://yamahaoai.com/>
- Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grants (ATV trail projects; due Sept 1): <https://tinyurl.com/y49dxbhe>

OTHER NATIONAL LINKS:

- Collaboration Works – Snake River Trails Alliance In Idaho Continues Successful Efforts: <https://tinyurl.com/j8h5tj53>
- Secretary Haaland Designates Nine New National Recreation Trails: <https://tinyurl.com/2vjxp9ac>
- USDA Announces \$503 Million to Improve Outdoor Recreation and Conservation on National Forests: <https://tinyurl.com/muksxuhd>
- These literary-inspired hikes will leave you with amazing trail tales: <https://tinyurl.com/5ba387h7>
- Pocan Introduces Bipartisan National Scenic Trails Parity Act: <https://tinyurl.com/mudhv8hp>
- National Public Lands Day is September 24: <https://www.neefusa.org/npld>

INTERNATIONAL LINKS:

- Manitoba study shows living near exercise trail lowers heart disease risk: <https://tinyurl.com/ycku5u44>

The Alaska Trails board meets via teleconference the first Tuesday of every other month from 5-7pm. If you want to hear more about Alaska trail topics, share trail information, or propose a trail project, join us. Members and the public are welcome. Call for more information and meeting details [907-334-8049](tel:907-334-8049).

A copy of this newsletter will also be posted to our web site. Newsletters come out at the beginning of each month. Deadline for articles is seven days before the first of the month. Send stories to Editor Eric Troyer at fbxtrails@gmail.com